

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3079

To establish the National Commission on the Modernization of the United Nations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2003

Mr. CRENSHAW (for himself and Mr. BLUNT) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

A BILL

To establish the National Commission on the Modernization
of the United Nations.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “National Commission
5 on the Modernization of the United Nations Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 There is established a commission to be known as the
8 “National Commission on the Modernization of the United
9 Nations”.

1 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall—

3 (1) conduct a study of the areas specified in
4 this section;

5 (2) recommend reforms with respect to such
6 areas; and

7 (3) enumerate methods to implement each rec-
8 ommendation.

9 (b) STUDY OF EXTENT OF MODERNIZATION WITHIN
10 CONFINES OF PRESENT CHARTER.—The Commission
11 shall—

12 (1) study the requirements for and extent to
13 which a modernization of the organizational struc-
14 ture and practices of the United Nations can be ef-
15 fectuated that do not require substantive changes to
16 be made to the Charter of the United Nations; and

17 (2) make recommendations to implement such a
18 modernization.

19 (c) STUDY OF EXTENT OF MODERNIZATION REQUIR-
20 ING MODIFICATIONS TO PRESENT CHARTER.—The Com-
21 mission shall—

22 (1) study the requirements for and extent to
23 which a modernization of the organizational struc-
24 ture and practices of the United Nations can only be
25 effectuated by requiring substantive changes to be
26 made to the Charter, paying particular attention to

1 the areas of study enumerated in subsections (d)
2 through (i); and

3 (2) make recommendations to implement such a
4 modernization.

5 (d) STUDY OF MEMBER STATE PRINCIPLES.—The
6 Commission shall study the principles to which states
7 should adhere as members of the United Nations, paying
8 particular attention to the following:

9 (1) Whether states that espouse and enforce
10 values that are counter to the Charter should be per-
11 mitted to be members of the United Nations.

12 (2) What recourse should be available to the
13 United Nations to respond to a member state that
14 has engaged in conduct counter to the Charter.

15 (3) What conduct on the part of a member
16 state would constitute sufficient grounds for—

17 (A) expulsion;

18 (B) condemnation; or

19 (C) sanction.

20 (e) STUDY OF MEMBER STATE STATUS.—The Com-
21 mission shall study the feasibility of mandating the fol-
22 lowing requirements of member states:

23 (1) Requirement of regular review by the
24 United Nations of the status of all member states to

1 determine if member states continue to adhere to
2 the principles outlined in the Charter.

3 (2) Requirement for member states to—

4 (A) sign a “Declaration of Member States”
5 declaring that the signatory state agrees to ad-
6 here to the principles of United Nations mem-
7 bership; and

8 (B) review the principles of the United Na-
9 tions to determine whether the state should
10 withdraw from membership if the state deter-
11 mines that the United Nations is not adhering
12 to the implementation of the Charter.

13 (f) STUDY OF PROPORTIONAL REPRESENTATION ON
14 PRINCIPAL ORGANS.—The Commission shall study the
15 following:

16 (1) Whether all states should have one vote in
17 the General Assembly.

18 (2) Whether the United Nations should be
19 structured in a bi-cameral fashion.

20 (g) STUDY OF ORGANIZATIONAL AND BUSINESS
21 FUNCTIONS.—The Commission shall study the following:

22 (1) Whether auxiliary commissions and organi-
23 zations of the United Nations should be funded by
24 member dues.

1 (2) Whether such commissions and organiza-
2 tions detract from the Charter principles by draining
3 resources away from the primary functions of the
4 United Nations.

5 (3) Whether member states can create caucuses
6 and fund them to deal with matters of common in-
7 terest without detracting from the main objectives of
8 the United Nations.

9 (h) STUDY OF USE, STRUCTURE, AND GOALS OF
10 PEACEKEEPING AND HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS.—The
11 Commission shall study the following:

12 (1) Whether the United Nations should main-
13 tain a separate peacekeeping force.

14 (2) Identification of successes of past peace-
15 keeping and humanitarian efforts.

16 (i) STUDY OF ENFORCEMENT OF RESOLUTIONS.—
17 The Commission shall study the credibility of resolutions
18 when the United Nations does not mandate their absolute
19 obedience.

20 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

21 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
22 shall be composed of 9 members appointed from among
23 persons who are not officers or employees of any govern-
24 ment, as follows:

25 (1) Two members appointed by the President.

1 (2) Two members appointed by the Speaker of
2 the House of Representatives.

3 (3) Two members appointed by the Majority
4 Leader of the Senate.

5 (4) One member appointed by the Minority
6 Leader of the Senate.

7 (5) One member appointed by the Minority
8 Leader of the House of Representatives.

9 (6) One member appointed by the Secretary of
10 State

11 (b) TERMS OF OFFICE.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each member shall be ap-
13 pointed for the life of the Commission.

14 (2) SPECIAL RULE.—A member who is ap-
15 pointed to the Commission and who subsequently be-
16 comes an officer or employee of any government may
17 not continue as a member.

18 (c) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall
19 be filled in the manner in which the original appointment
20 was made.

21 (d) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Com-
22 mission shall be elected by the members after consultation
23 with the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Rep-
24 resentatives and the majority leader and minority leader

1 of the Senate. Pending such election, a provisional Chair-
2 person shall be designated by the President.

3 (e) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member shall receive
4 travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence,
5 in accordance with sections 5702 and 5703 of title 5,
6 United States Code.

7 **SEC. 5. DIRECTOR AND STAFF.**

8 (a) DIRECTOR.—The Commission shall appoint a Di-
9 rector who shall be paid at the rate of basic pay for level
10 IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title
11 5, United States Code.

12 (b) STAFF.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
14 the Director, with the approval of the Commission,
15 may appoint and fix the pay of additional personnel.

16 (2) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN CIVIL SERVICE
17 LAWS.—The Director may make such appointments
18 subject to the provisions of title 5, United States
19 Code, governing appointments in the competitive
20 service, and any personnel so appointed shall be paid
21 in accordance with the provisions of chapter 51 and
22 subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to
23 classification and General Schedule pay rates.

24 (c) STAFF OF FEDERAL AGENCIES.—Upon request
25 of the Commission, the head of any Federal department

1 or agency may detail, on a reimbursable basis, any of the
2 personnel of that department or agency to the Commission
3 to assist it in carrying out its duties under this Act.

4 (d) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.—Upon
5 the request of the Commission, the Administrator of Gen-
6 eral Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reim-
7 bursable basis, the administrative support services nec-
8 essary for the Commission to carry out its duties under
9 this Act.

10 **SEC. 6. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

11 (a) MEETINGS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall meet
13 at the call of the Chairperson.

14 (2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
15 the Commission shall constitute a quorum but a
16 lesser number may hold hearings.

17 (b) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission
18 may secure directly from any department or agency of the
19 United States information necessary to enable it to carry
20 out this Act. Upon request of the Commission, the head
21 of that department or agency shall furnish that informa-
22 tion to the Commission.

23 (c) MAILS.—The Commission may use the United
24 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-

1 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United
2 States.

3 **SEC. 7. REPORTS.**

4 (a) INTERIM REPORT.—Within 6 months after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall
6 submit to Congress an interim report on the activities of
7 the Commission under this Act.

8 (b) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 12 months after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission
10 shall submit to Congress a final report containing a state-
11 ment of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations
12 of the Commission.

13 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

14 The Commission shall terminate 15 days after sub-
15 mission of its final report under section 7(b).

16 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act:

18 (1) CHARTER.—The term “Charter” means the
19 Charter of the United Nations.

20 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
21 means the National Commission on the Moderniza-
22 tion of the United Nations.

23 (3) MEMBER.—The term “member” means a
24 member of the Commission.

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